JUNE 12, 1993 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: Members of the press, community groups and the residents of South Riverdale, Toronto:

ARA action a response to violence

Anti-Racist Action Responds to Rise in Violent Attacks

- A Tamil man grabbed and beaten by a drunk and pumped up Nazi after a Heritage Front event.
- An anti-semitic attack on a man in Kitchener by Nazis
- # people hospitalized when neo-nazis went on rampage through streets of Ottawa after HF recruiting event
- also recently: arson attack on residence for young women, five-on-one assault of Black community activist

Anti-Racist Action marched through the South Riverdale community on Friday, June 11 to expose, oppose and confront a violent white supremacist centre of organizing activity in that area. The demonstration targeted a residence where Gary Schipper writes and recordes the vile messages of the Heritage Front Hateline.

From 97 Bertmount St., Schipper preached fascist intolerance and constantly recorded openly violent racist, anti-semitic and homophobic messages. The Hateline is also used as a promotion and recruitment tool for the Heritage Front and paramilitary organization Church of the Creator, groups that have a long record of hatemongering, violence and intimidation.

Not surprisingly, most of Gary Schipper's neighbours were shocked and outraged to discover that neo-nazi organizing was going on in their backyards. Anti-Racist Action supporters who went door to door explaining our presence met with overwhelming support from area residents.

Toronto's East End has long been the home of various white supremacist groups trying to gain a foothold in a working-class area and threatening the safety of many new Canadians who come to this neighbourhood, as well as Canadians of colour, Jewish, disabled, lesbian, gay and anti-racist members of this community.

Anti-Racist Action joins with the South Riverdale residents in hoping that their community will soon be free of white supremacist activity, because organizing for "race war" and promoting Hitler's "final solution" is the ultimate breach of peace. We apologize to the community for any concern that may have been caused by the controlled anger that Heritage Front attacks provoked from protestors. We offer reassurance that absolutely no one was injured and no damage was caused anywhere else during the demonstration.

We would rather see people and their communities defend themselves rather than cowering in fear and silence as a result of fascist imtimidation.

Anti-Racist Action uses the power of numbers to stand up for a vision of a diverse and healthy society where hate cannot flourish. We are a youth-oriented movement united by the need for street-level protest against Nazi attacks as well as the need for action and education to prevent recruiting of young whites into racist groups.

History has shown that an effective method of protest is direct action using the power of numbers. Fascism will not disappear by wishing it away. The Riverdale community, through such protests in the 1980's, was able to stop the growth of local fascism at that time. But in the late 80's and early 90's, the fascists have regrouped and are now escalating their use of terror tactics. The current rise of fascism in other countries such as Germany has not been prevented even by strong laws against it. The police and the courts in Canada sometimes slow down white supremacist activity, but they are not the only avenue for defeating fascism - particularly when members of neo-nazi groups are employed by the military and police forces.

Anti-Racist Action remain committed to taking an active stand against racist, fascist and white supremacist organizing in Toronto and in other Ontario towns and cities. We are a single group in a broad anti-racist movement and we support all efforts and strategies to say NO TO NAZIS, whenever and wherever they appear.

To contact ARA, please leave a message on our info line at 363-7541.